

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2218

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, UN, VM
SUBJECT: QUESTION OF VIETNAM'S ADMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

REF: USUN 2211

SUMMARY: IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR EXPLANATION OF OUR NOVEMBER 1976 VETO OF VIETNAM'S UN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, THE CRUX OF THE ISSUE WOULD APPEAR TO BE WHETHER VIETNAM IS MANIFESTING SATISFACTORY HUMANITARIAN AND PRACTICAL CONCERN REGARDING AMERICAN SERVICEMEN MISSION IN ACTION. JUDGING FROM INFORMATION AT HAND, IT HAS BEGUN TO DO SO. THIS BEING THE CASE, AND GIVEN OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY, WE BELIEVE THAT AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OR PARTICIPATION IN A CONSENSUS VOTE ON VIETNAM'S ADMISSION WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH UNITED STATES POLICY INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

1. WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AND QUITE POSSIBLE WITHIN THE COMING DAYS, THE UNITED STATES WILL BE CALLED UPON TO VOTE IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC) ON THE ADMISSION OF VIETNAM.
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2. IN CONSIDERING OUR VOTING STANCE, THE FOLLOWING EXPOSITION MAY BE USEFUL:

(A) AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 15, 1976, THE UNITED STATES VOTED AGAINST VIETNAM'S APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION BECAUSE VIETNAM HAD FAILED SO FAR TO MANIFEST SATIS-

FACTORY HUMANITARIAN OR PRACTICAL CONCERN REGARDING AMERICAN SERVICEMEN MISSION IN ACTION. THE UNITED STATES VOTED AS IT DID NOT BECAUSE IT DOUBTED THAT VIETNAM WAS ABLE TO CARRY OUT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE UN CHARTER, BUT RATHER BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES HAD SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE WILLINGNESS OF VIETNAM TO DO SO.

(B) ON OCTOBER 6, IN SAN FRANCISCO, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CARTER STATED: "...SEVERAL MONTHS AGO THE VIETNAM GOVERNMENT SAID WE ARE READY TO SIT DOWN AND NEGOTIATE FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION ON MIAS. SO FAR MR. FORD HAS NOT RESPONDED. I WOULD NEVER NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM, NOR PERMIT THEM TO JOIN THE UN UNTIL THEY HAVE TAKEN THIS ACTION..."

(C) ON JUNE 29, 1977, IN HIS ADDRESS BEFORE THE ASIA SOCIETY IN NEW YORK, SECRETARY VANCE SAID: "WE WILL NO LONGER OPPOSE VIETNAM'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS."

(D) IN VARIOUS STATEMENTS DURING RECENT YEARS, THE UNITED STATES HAS EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSALITY OF UN MEMBERSHIP.

3. WE GATHER THAT VIETNAM HAS BECOME MORE FORTHCOMING ON THE MAI QUESTION IN ITS RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT THE US CONSIDERS THAT THE VIETNAMESE ARE WORKING TO PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY ACCOUNTING OF OUR MIAS. THIS BEING THE CASE, AND GIVEN THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY, WE BELIEVE THAT AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OR PARTICIPATION IN A CONSENSUS VOTE ON VIETNAM'S ADMISSION WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH UNITED STATES POLICY INTERESTS. IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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TEXT OF OUR EXPLANATION OF NOVEMBER 1976 VETO, THE CRUX OF THE ISSUE WOULD APPEAR TO BE WHETHER VIETNAM IS NOW MANIFESTING SATISFACTORY HUMANITARIAN AND PRACTICAL CONCERN REGARDING AMERICAN SERVICE MEN MISSING IN ACTION. JUDGING FROM INFORMATION AT HAND, IT HAS BEGUN TO DO SO.

4. FURTHERMORE, OUR TALKS THIS YEAR WITH THE VIETNAMESE AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO SEE VIETNAM A MEMBER OF THE UN HAVE DRAWN FAVORABLE REACTION FROM THE UN MEMBERSHIP AS A WHOLE. WE BELIEVE THAT A UNITED STATES ABSTENTION IN THE COUNCIL'S VOTE ON VIETNAM'S AD-

MISSION WOULD DAMPEN THIS POSITIVE IMPACT.

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